

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): An isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A purified chicken type II collagen which is encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 12 or 13.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A host cell transformed with the recombinant expression vector of claim 15.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a chicken type II collagen, comprising transforming a suitable host cell by the recombinant expression vector of claim 16;

culturing the host cell in suitable culture medium and under appropriate culture conditions; and

separating and purifying the chicken type II collagen from the culture medium, the cells, or the medium and the cells.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the separated and purified chicken type II collagen prepared by the method of claim 17, and a pharmaceutically-accepted vehicle.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A food or beverage composition, wherein the food or beverage composition, in addition to comprising the food or beverage, further comprises a chicken type II collagen prepared according to the method of claim 17.

Claims 20-21 (Cancelled).